

April 28, 1975

SENATOR SWIGART: Mr. President and members, Senator Chambers, here is one Christian who stands to oppose vehemently LB 599. I agree with Senator Chambers that we are dealing with the frailties of mankind and with man's weaknesses. I think it does...it is a thing that kind of gets under their skin and some people have an obsession over racing. It involves not just a trickle of people but a lot of people. I have talked to business men in Omaha who have said, well, we just try to exist until the races are over so we can get back and do business on an even scale again. It does cause people who are employed to take their rent money, thinking this is their day. I feel lucky today and I don't think we ought to encourage that kind of thing. I don't think that a government ought to have a part in encouraging this thing that they know gets under the skin of people. It does increase illicit activity, prostitution and that sort of thing and so I think it is a very bad thing. Incidentally, this thing is a very costly thing for the city of Omaha. We have to...where there is crowds like this, we have to send out plainclothes policemen and try to keep pickpockets out of the crowds and it is quite a costly thing, for traffic and that sort of thing, for the city of Omaha. We don't get anything back. I think someday we ought to have a little tax on horse racing in the city of Omaha for the benefit of the city government because of the increased cost there. You know, people come there and you think, well, they will spend a lot of money, while they are there, but you see, they lose it at Aksarben and there are very few of them left to buy steaks after they lose, you see, at the races and so I want to join...I am not with Senator Chambers very much but he is sure right on this one and I want to join him on this.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Well, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, whether we agree with what Nebraska, in the past, has adopted or not is really not a part of this question. As Nebraska did adopt the horse racing activity and increase in that activity and development of it in Nebraska grew to a point where Nebraska, here in Lincoln, found that their facilities did not meet the requirements that were asked of these people that do race, we found ourselves in a real difficult situation. I think that we are only asking this provision and the agreement has been reached to still keep these horses that would have been in Lincoln in Nebraska so that they can stay in Nebraska and continue to race. Had we not done this or if we don't do this, we might be in trouble with out other race tracks in Nebraska. I think it is a move that is necessary and one that does produce some revenue for the state of Nebraska and I hope we will accept it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Burbach, will you close debate by reply.

SENATOR BURBACH: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would be hopeful that this body would adopt LB 599. It is important. This body took its action last year to provide for those state revenues to go on to the state fairgrounds and then, as we proceed and find out it is impossible by those people who are doing the building to complete this effort and then not to be able to race next